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### UM students support state work-study, poll says

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# University of Montana

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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UM STUDENTS SUPPORT STATE WORK-STUDY, POLL SAYS

MISSOULA--

University of Montana students would rather work than take loans or grants for the money they need to attend college, according to a recent student body poll taken on the Missoula campus.

About 62 percent of the students polled indicated that they would like to earn money to attend the University through college work-study program. Currently about 680 UM students hold jobs through the federal work-study program, compared with 957 students in 1971.

The decline in the number of students in the work-study program is a consequence of federal budget cuts, according to Diane Moffett, a legislative researcher for the Associated Students of UM (ASUM), the student body government.

She said about 400 UM students who applied and qualified for the work-study program this year could not participate because there was no money available.

In the work-study program the federal government provides 80 percent of the students' salary, and the University provides the remaining 20 percent. Students must work less than 20 hours per week and only during the school year. Most students work far less than the maximum, Moffett said, because their allotted amounts would run out too quickly when they work more hours per week.

The maximum award for second through fourth year UM students is \$1,500 and \$1,000 for first year students, compared to \$1,800 per student in 1980.

Moffett said ASUM is applying the principles of Reagan's New Federalism

(over)



by asking the Montana Legislature to provide money for its state-funded college work-study program to off-set the federal budget cuts.

The Montana University System requested the Legislature to fund a state-supported work-study program for \$3 million for the 1983-85 biennium. That amount would fund jobs for 3300 students in the system. However, the Legislature's Joint Education Appropriations Sub-Committee has recommended only \$586,000 for the program to be divided among the six units of the university system.

However, Moffett said even this recommendation is in jeopardy, facing reduction or elimination.

"The sub-committee recommendation would be a minimal level to be a stable basis to build on in the future with more funds from the Legislature," she said.

Moffett said written comments on the opinion polls showed that students were interested in being able to work for several reasons. She said such reasons include taking pride in their work, getting experience related to their academic major or career goals, helping University activities and research projects and avoiding borrowing at high interest rates.

Moffett added that other advantages were that work-study jobs help relieve job competition in communities where universities and colleges are located. She also explained that state and local government agencies also employ students under work-study programs.

Because the funding for the state work-study program may be cut further, Moffett said ASUM is campaigning for students, parents and alumni to write and call their legislators to support the program.

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